

New England



COE Update

The Good News...

In October, the Senate Appropriations Committee Democrats released their proposed Labor, HHS, and Education proposed funding bill (Appendix 2) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Under this bill, the Federal TRIO Programs would receive an increase of \$185.8 million (17%). In addition to providing a boost in the number and size of awards in the upcoming competitions for Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science, Veterans Upward Bound, and the Ronald E. McNair Post baccalaureate programs, the Senate language also directs the Department of Education to use part of the allocation to fund high-scoring applications in the FY21 Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers and FY20 Student Support Services competitions.

But...

As you know, the federal Fiscal Year ends on September 30th of each year, and under “regular order” each of the next Fiscal Year’s appropriations bills should be passed by this date. However, this is rarely the case. Most years, all appropriations bills are passed before Christmas through large-scale funding packages known as an omnibus bill (or several smaller packages, known as minibuses). However, this year, the House-passed appropriations bills include many progressive policy positions that are not acceptable to the Senate, and work on all appropriations legislation has been delayed because of the focus on both the bipartisan roads and bridges infrastructure deal (the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and social safety net (aka “human infrastructure”) deal (Build Back Better) bills.

What's In This Issue:

- COE Update
- What is National TRIO Day?
- TRIO Day Schedule
- Save the Dates
- Professional Development Workshop Offerings
- News Bites

COE Update continued:

On December 2, Congress passed a second continuing resolution (after approving level funding to continue government operations from October 1 to December 3) to fund the government at current levels through **February 18, 2022**. There remains some question as to whether Congress can come to agreement about the final appropriations figures before that time. If Congress cannot reach an agreement, TRIO's entire increase for FY 2022 (the \$200 million increase) is in jeopardy. COE and the TRIO community have limited ability to impact this outcome because of the nature of the differences between the House and Senate (for example, on abortion riders, action on climate change, the limited investment in defense).

Another opportunity...

The **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** program is designed to reduce the burden of engaging in a Public Service career for individuals with federal student loan debt. There are significant design issues with the program that require a legislative fix; however, the Biden Administration has made a limited number of procedural changes designed to assure that all eligible professionals receive the intended forgiveness. This is particularly important because, according to a survey conducted by COE, over 80% of TRIO professionals have student loan debt, and nearly two-thirds of them have considered leaving their positions because of this debt burden. A number of TRIO professionals have been able to receive loan forgiveness because of the changes made by the Administration, and each regional association should continue to encourage their constituents to make use of these recent changes. During the first quarter of 2022, COE will host a set of webinars specifically for TRIO professionals, students, and alumni with Department representatives to discuss the PSLF waivers currently being implemented by ED.

Submitted by:

Brian Post

NEOA, Past President



NEOA's leadership delegation after a hard day of work at the COE Board Meeting

COMING RIGHT UP...

New England Virtual TRIO Day Vermont February 16 & 17

- **Wednesday, February 16 - Wisdom Wednesday**
Time to acquire the wisdom you need for your college future!

4:00 pm - 4:50 pm - College Futures Workshops

- ✓ Financial Aid
- ✓ Common App Overview
- ✓ Personal Statement/College Essay
- ✓ Differences between High School and College
- ✓ SAT Prep
- ✓ College and Career Readiness Skills
- ✓ More to be added!



5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Paradigm Shift: Navigating Transition - Adapting to Change

6:15 - 6:45 - FUN with Chuck – Come and play a game with your friends!

- **Thursday, February 17 - TRIO Takeaway Thursday**
See what TRIO can do for you!

4:00 pm - 4:50 pm – Current College Student Panel

- ✓ What is college like RIGHT NOW?
- ✓ Talk to the experts!
- ✓ TRIO students who are currently in college!

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm - Career Roundtables

- ✓ Not sure what you want to do?
- ✓ What can I study in college?
- ✓ Questions about a specific major?
- ✓ Get your answers here!

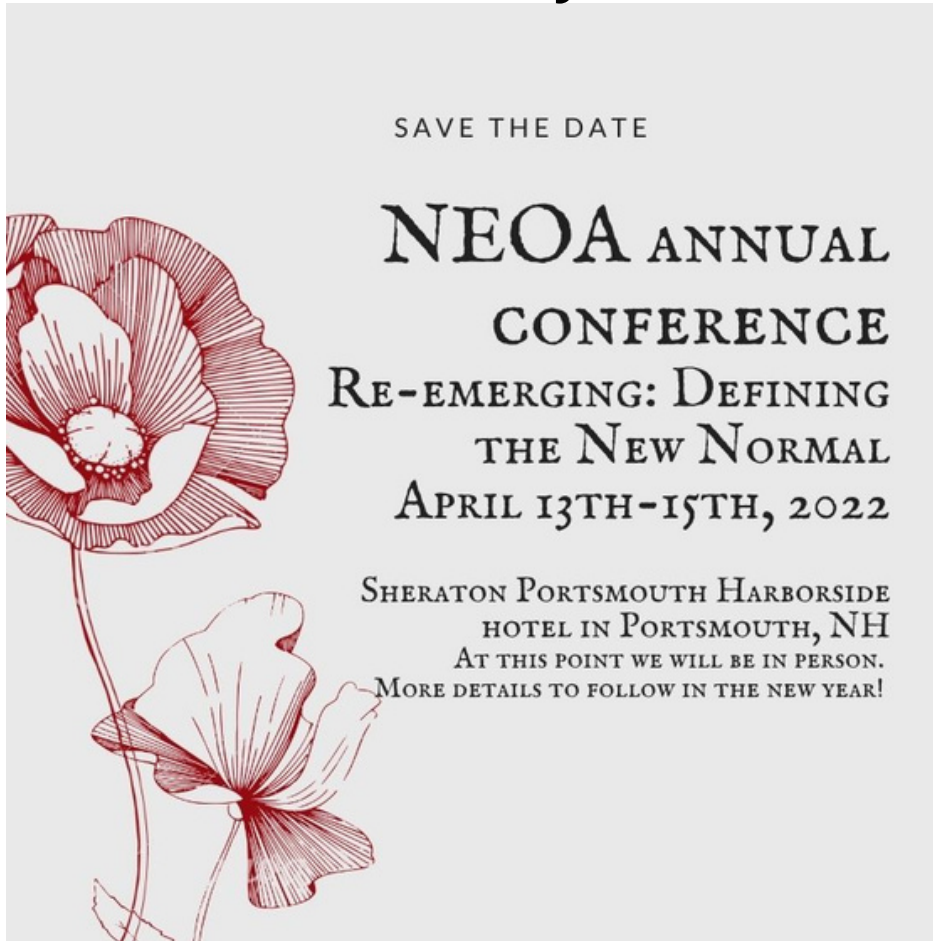


6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - College Admissions Roundtables

- ✓ Choose from a variety of colleges and universities

2022 Annual Conference

You are cordially invited!!



Please save the dates of April 13-15th and plan on joining us for the annual NEOA conference, in Portsmouth, NH. Our theme this year is Re-emerging; defining the new normal.

Our pre-conference on April 12th will feature Dr. Patricia Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success. She will be speaking about The Equity Agenda; Racially Equitable Practices in Higher Education.

More details about additional conference workshops and speakers will be forthcoming, but be sure to catch the early bird rates in late Feb. We are looking forward to re-emerging with you and enjoying the conference together.

2022 Annual Conference

NEOA MEMBERSHIP!

*LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD....WORKSHOPS FOR THE
NEOA CONFERENCE!!!*

**We need your knowledge,
experience and expertise! Please
consider the following
workshop topics (but we are
open to others as well)**

- *THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION*
- *TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT*
- *ANTI-RACISM TRAINING*
- *CRITICAL RACE THEORY*
- *DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION*
- *BUDGET MANAGEMENT*
- *HYBRID AND VIRTUAL LEARNING, PROGRAMMING,
AND SERVICES*
- *TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS/NEW
TECHNOLOGIES*
- *PROGRAM SPECIFIC TRAINING (UB, UBMS, TS, SSS,
MCNAIR, EOC, ETC.)*
- *SELF-CARE FOR STAFF/STRATEGIES TO AVOID
STAFF BURNOUT AND TURNOVER*

**Please pass this email along to any colleagues who you feel would
make great presenters and have good information and knowledge
to share!**

[LINK TO THE RFP](#)

GREAT NEWS!

THE NEOA ON-SITE SILENT AUCTION is BACK!!!!!!

WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND TIME!

Cold days plus COVID means more time inside for many. Need something to do? Consider a Winter Cleanout! Got some brand-new items or VINTAGE treasures you'd like to part with that would be of interest to others and SELLABLE?? You know; the purple electric sock warmers you received from Aunt Mildred that you haven't taken out of the box.... and never will? The brand-new air fryer collecting dust? The elephant pin from India you lusted after, bought but never wear?!!

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING REALLY SPECTACULAR ITEMS TO THE NEOA CONFERENCE ON-SITE SILENT AUCTION!

Here's how it works:

- Once you identify items, send an email to Linda Shiller-Cormany: shilcorm88@gmail.com or Ralph Hogan rhogan2@mwcc.mass.edu with a short description and value of each item. Then, bring items to the conference and deliver to the Silent Auction location (more info on that later) or send it with someone who will get there EARLY as we need time to record and display the items. We need to know ahead of time to make sure we have room for all the awesome items we hope to receive. Specific schedule/location will be sent out later.

Items we **ARE** looking for:

- New, in original packaging items including electronics, housewares, etc. decorative items, gag gifts
- Art work, crafts, accessories and jewelry (We will be VERY selective as space is limited for jewelry)
- Specialty items from your state that are NOT going in the gift basket

IF NOT SURE ABOUT AN ITEM, email us.

Items we are **NOT** looking for:

- Campus logo tees, mugs, hats, etc. (These may be able to go in the gift baskets from your state)

- **The online Truly New England Auction will take place as well. Look for Reggie's email with more details on the auction Gift Card drive. (You CAN donate to both.)**

- **We also need volunteers to staff the silent auction during the conference.** We are asking for 2-hour shifts and will send a sign-up email closer to the conference. Once you see the conference schedule, perhaps you can offer some time! Need more info? Shoot Linda an e-mail Want to be on the committee? Even better!

- All proceeds will support NEOA professional development initiatives.

- Bring your Wallet- more coming on what forms of payment we will accept! Stay tuned!

2021-2022 Important Dates

February 9 Developing a Self-Care Practice, with Justine Zolotas Virtual

February 16-17 TRIO Day Virtual

March 5 College & Career Pathways Virtual

March 9 What is Intersectional Identity? Virtual

March 20-23 Policy Seminar Washington, D.C.

April 12 NEOA Board Meeting Portsmouth, NH

April 12-13 Listen Up! and VEOP Voices Panel Virtual

April 13-15 NEOA Annual Conference Portsmouth, NH

June 2-3 NEOA Board Meeting Location: TBD

CAEOP Annual Conference (Connecticut) Date & Location TBD (Spring 2022)

Save the Date

April 13-15, 2022

**TRIO RETIREES RECOGNITION
AT THE NEOA CONFERENCE**

**NEOA wishes to celebrate the
retirees of 2021-22. For more
information and to submit
name(s) contact:
elaine.leavitt@gmail.com**

MEEOA Conference Recap

MEEOA (Maine) Annual Conference January 5-7, 2022

The Maine Educational Opportunity Association wrapped up their 2022 conference, featuring Rockell Bartoli as the keynote speaker. Rockell was wonderful and engaging and reminded us all of the importance of self-care before we care for others, particularly in the current climate. Other features of our conference were a fun stump trivia night hosted by Sporcle events and we were able to award giftcards to participants. Senator Susan Collins also sent us a video just for our conference to thank us for our service and remind us of her support for TRIO programs! We had some lovely alumni stories during our awards ceremony as well, I could ask our alumni chair to provide more information if you'd like!

It was great to gather (virtually) with our Maine TRIO and GEAR-UP folks and we are hoping to plan an in-person PD event later in 2022 using the NEOA State initiative funds we were awarded recently as a follow-up to our conference.

Submitted by: Sam Prosser

MEEOA President

NEOA Prof. Dev. Recap

On October 29, just over 60 NEOA UB professionals participated in an **Upward Bound grant writing workshop facilitated by Heath Alexander**. Heath is the current Director of Grants and Program Evaluation for Study Smart Tutors, where he assists institutions and organizations with compliance and the submission of applications for federal grant programs including TRIO and GEAR UP. Heath has been a part of the TRIO community for the past 26 years beginning with his participation as a Talent Search student. **Workshop participants learned first-hand why proposals are not funded**, for reasons that make sense and for reasons that don't. The suspense built as Heath covered the top ten reasons why UB grant writers lose points, all the way to #1. (See? You should have registered!) Veteran grant writers were in attendance and added valuable knowledge and experience to the discussions. Participants left with access to a Google folder where ideas can be shared, grant sections critiqued and questions can be answered. The UB stress level has almost certainly decreased significantly throughout the region. The workshop was free for members and made available to the membership by NEOA's professional development committee. Please send additional ideas for NEOA professional development opportunities to Lynn Ploof-Davis, lynnp@maine.edu.

"AN EIGHT-MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN FORMED AND HAS BEGUN MEETING MONTHLY. PLEASE SEND YOUR IDEAS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO LYNN PLOOF-DAVIS, LYNNP@MAINE.EDU."

VEOP Conference Recap

VEOP VIRTUAL EVENT

On January 7th the Vermont TRIO and GEAR UP communities celebrated all things VEOP on a zoom platform. **Over 70 participants** joined us throughout the day.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Rick Williams, Director UB – NVU Lyndon, and Soren Dews, TS Counselor and Vermont State Liaison, provided a history of VEOP for our newcomers.
- Lindsay Carpenter, our VEOP President served as our wonderful emcee welcoming us all to this day!
- Jonathon Elkin- COE Board Chair, provided a Washington Update, and we invited our congressional delegates to join in the day.
- **We honored our VEOP award recipients:**
 - Educator of the year: Wayland Cole
 - Friend of TRIO- Peg Hale
 - New Professional – Jessica Smith
 - VEOP Achiever- Danielle Hume
- We honored Jack Anderson, the original recipient of the Jack Anderson lifetime professional award along with many of the past award recipients who joined us for the event.
- We also honored Upward Bound at NVU Johnson and were visited by Ted Turkle who wrote the **first** UB Grant in Vermont in 1965. Both Ted and Jack Anderson are considered the **“Fathers of Upward Bound in Vermont.”** We appreciated their time in coming to talk to us about the history and the longevity and legacy of our TRIO/EOP Programs in Vermont.
- As part of our VEOP Day of Celebration, the conference fee covered the cost of **three Professional Development Opportunities**. If you would like to participate in these events and you did not attend and pay for our VEOP Day of Celebration, **the workshop fee is \$25**. You do not need to be a member of VEOP to get this great price on these Professional Development workshops.

Just click on the links on page 10 of this Newsletter to register!

Upcoming Professional Development

VEOP Professional Development Workshops:

[Developing a Self-Care Practice](#)

Deadline to register: February 6

Presenter: Justine Zolotas, personal trainer and yoga instructor

February 9th, 12:00-1:00 PM (online)

In this one-hour workshop participants will engage in exercise and mindful techniques while learning tips focused on how to build self-care into their lives to reduce stress and to improve health. Participants will engage in two short workout routines and Justine will share the Youtube videos of the routines.

[What is Intersectional Identity?](#)

Deadline to register: March 6

Presenter: Kathleen Mason, Vermont Technical College

March 9th, 12:00-1:30 PM (online)

Why is it important to understand both our own and our students' identities? As we move through our day our different and intersecting identities, experiences, and biases impact our access to resources, systems, information, opportunity and belonging. We will look at tools to help us reflect on our own identities and how we can use the same tools to better understand and support the students we serve. We will then discuss how we can move from empathy toward active allyship in our work in creating greater equity, inclusion and belonging for our students.

[Listen Up! and VEOP Voices Panel](#)

Deadline to register: April 9

This is a two-part workshop

April 12th Listen Up! Movie Viewing (3:30-4:00 introduction followed by viewing)

April 13th facilitated discussion with program participants re: issues raised in the movie (4:00-5:00)

Part 1: After filmmaker Bess O'brien introduces the film and describes the inspiration behind it, the process and purpose of creating it, we will watch the film (link to streaming platform will be provided to all registrants).

Part 2: facilitated discussion with Listen Up! cast members. This is our chance to ask questions, listen to cast members' stories and experiences and share how the film may impact our work, choices, and understanding of the myriad issues impacting young and emerging adults today.

Upcoming Professional Development Continued...

VEOP Professional Development Workshops Continued...:

What Have We Learned? Forging Ahead: developing a hybrid approach with focus on resilience, creativity and innovation (online) May, 2022 -

*****Links to register for What Have We Learned events coming soon.**

Another Professional Development Opportunity...

College & Career Pathways

March 5, 2022 | 9:30am-12:30pm | Online over Zoom

Get the full schedule and sign up at vsac.org/ccp

High school families across the region are invited to attend this year's College & Career Pathways event on **Saturday, March 5**. **VSAC's** GEAR UP, Talent Search, and EOC programs produce this **FREE** event every spring to help families plan for education and training beyond high school. This year's event will take place virtually, so families can join from the comfort of their own homes to attend live workshops, discover free resources, and get expert advice on:

- financial aid, scholarships & managing college costs
- the college search & finding the right fit
- navigating the admissions process & writing the admissions essay
- apprenticeships and short-term training opportunities for in-demand jobs
- exploring career interests
- managing your money after high school
- strategies for the SAT & ACT ... and more

State Initiatives

Winter 2022 NEOA Advocacy State Initiatives Underway

Many of you know that NEOA has a State Initiatives program that is part of the NEOA Strategic Plan and our annual operating budget. Thanks to Sam Prosser, (MEEOA), and Lindsay Carpenter, (VEOP), for their successful applications! Both events focus on key state leadership development, and are supported by **NEOA State Initiative funds**. Funds are available to each New England state annually for related activities. Matching funds are also available through COE's Paul Spraggins grants. This year, the states of **Maine and Vermont** have each received awards of \$500 or more this winter to support their advocacy initiatives. Here's what's happening:

MAINE: is holding a day-long advocacy conference will focus on local, state, and national levels. They are planning workshops to include national leaders and Maine state to develop members' skills at advocating for TRIO and GEAR-UP with members of Congress and their aides. Building these skills and relationships builds leadership skills, which can encourage more participation on the state and regional association boards.

VERMONT: will provide members of their state association, VEOP, with an opportunity to explore their leadership qualities and skills by offering a **StrengthsFinder Training** workshop. Open to 20 participants, it will begin with a StrengthsFinder assessment followed by a three-hour workshop with a certified StrengthsFinder coach. Participants will develop a leadership philosophy, set personal leadership goals, and consider serving on the VEOP and NEOA boards.

Sarah Morrell,
NEOA Advocacy Chair

What is Fair Share- And Why it Matters!

For those who may not know, COE, The Council for Opportunity in Education, based in Washington, DC, is the organization that advocates for TRIO and GEAR UP programs and works directly on Capitol Hill to lobby Congress on behalf of our programs and students. Without COE, **bipartisan support** for TRIO in Congress wouldn't exist. The amazing growth in TRIO funding we have enjoyed in recent years also would not be possible! COE also provides a plethora of services and support to the TRIO community with emphasis on professional development and advocacy.

Fair Share is the monetary donations COE receives from both individual contributions and institutional memberships. These donations help fund government relations and advocacy, professional development, research, and student leadership opportunities.

The FAIR SHARE **PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS** are donations made by TRIO professionals, supporters and other college access professionals who usually belong to regional TRIO Associations.

The current 2022 Annual Giving Campaigns include:

- Fair Share one-time personal contributions
- On-going monthly donations
- 10 for 10m (10 payments for 10 months)



As a non-profit organization, COE is limited to what it can and can't use it's funding for and **Fair share** contributions allow COE the flexibility to lobby and advocate on behalf of TRIO, as well as other college access programs. One may ask, why support COE if I work in a GEAR UP program? Good question! Sometimes COE lobbies and advocated on behalf of **several federally granted college access programs**. COE has provided support, advice and training for GU professionals when needed. Also, since many TRIO professionals have GEAR UP projects as well, COE has worked with them to ensure they are in compliance.

With personal contributions, when COE advocates on the "hill", they can share how much support they receive in individual contributions as a way to leverage the importance of TRIO programs and the support they receive. It's not as much about the dollar amounts as the number of people who make personal contributions. Every little bit helps!

Each year, NEOA has a Fair Share goal assigned by COE, and our region consistently finishes **near the top in its annual giving!** It's easy to get started by visiting the COE [website](#) to make sure NEOA finishes first in the nation again and COE has the support it needs to support our programs and students!

NEOA News Bites



Bidya Ranjeet (Director, Center for Academic Programs and the McNair Scholars Program at UConn Storrs) was recently selected by the Neag School of Education at UConn for its Alumni Outstanding Higher Education Professional Award. Here is a link to the article (scroll down a bit to see Bidya).

<https://education.uconn.edu/2022/01/21/announcing-the-2022-neag-school-alumni-awards-honorees/#>

Bidya has also been involved with the nationwide Cities of Promise initiative - <https://citiesofpromise.com>.

As well as serving as a Past President and current Advisor of the Nepali Women's Global Network - <http://nepaliwomen.org/advisory-board-member/>

Congratulations Bidya on all your amazing work and contributions!



NEOA News Bites

On January 18th, former Keene State College Associate TRIO Director and Writing Instructor Maria Dintino's first book was released. From the Amazon.Com synopsis ... "The Light Above is a memoir told through the unfolding stories of two proud daughters of New England-Margaret Fuller, American transcendentalist, women's rights champion, and public intellectual, alive in the first half of the nineteenth century; and Maria Dintino, the author, daughter of a first-generation Italian American and longtime New Hampshireite. A literary enthusiast, Dintino encounters Fuller and discovers that her stories shed light on her own. Fuller becomes Dintino's guide and teacher, and Dintino gradually deepens in understanding and trust of her own life story. A memoir that reveals the impact of shared stories, extending beyond the limits of time and place.

Maria is also co-founder and writer for the Nasty Women Writers (NWW) project, "... highlighting women whose voices have been sidelined and erased from the fabric of our collective experience. Nasty Women Writers resists this shut down on powerful women's voices and claims #nasty as a stance of power, not the put-down often intended." See <https://www.nastywomenwriters.com/about-the-nastywomenwritersproject/>

Congratulations Maria Dintino!



NEOA News Bites

2021 GEAR UP Professional of the Year Congratulations Dianne Griggs!

<https://www.edpartnerships.org/leadership-awards>


When Dianne took over managing the GEAR UP grant, she had a steep learning curve. She dove in learning about every element of the work that challenged her. She became a wise mentor to the director's group, she advised new directors and worked closely with overall data and communications with GEAR UP nationally. Dianne is a champion for GEAR UP in Vermont and around the country. Dianne has a clear direction in her mind, based on the needs of Vermonters, who are different in every corner of the state, to bring equity and access to all students and families. She listens. She engages with every school partner, staff member, GEAR UP state partner, and knows, in detail, the work they do for our students and families. She works diligently at knowing how to inform, support, and encourage the best out of our staff. Dianne visits with and participates in our programming around the state.

She can be found with students in a summer program playing basketball, on a boat with a college partner testing water with science teachers, playing rock, paper, scissors, with students at a motivational talk, and taking a cooking class online with families around the state. She participates in reviewing the GEAR UP APR requirements and offers suggestions, encourages her own staff to participate on national committees, present at conferences, and join local and national boards for PD, exposure to new ideas, and to share our own experiences. In a nutshell, Dianne is the Wizard of Oz moving levers behind the scenes with great skill, compassion, and enthusiasm.

Dianne is an amazing supervisor, colleague, and professional for GEAR UP. She is a leader deeply committed to student success.



**2021 Professional of the Year,
Dianne Griggs, Vermont GEAR UP**



***HAVE A NEWS BITE, ARTICLE,
STUDENT ARTWORK OR
WRITING FOR THE
NEWSLETTER?
SEND IT ON!***

***PLEASE EMAIL LINDA AT:
shilcorm88@gmail.com***